

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests 903 3rd Street

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News Release

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Moose Creek District Ranger invites public input on Tinker Bugs project

<u>Kamiah, Idaho (August 24, 2018)</u> – Moose Creek District Ranger Jenni Blake invites the public to an upcoming meeting on the proposed Tinker Bugs project, located on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests south of Syringa. The meeting is being held so that the public can become familiar with the project area and collaborate on the development of the proposed action.

The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 5 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. (PDT) in Syringa at the River Dance Lodge/Syringa Café (7743 U.S. Highway 12 [milepost 90]). The café will be open and serving dinner during regular business hours (6:00 to 7:30 p.m.) that evening.

At the meeting, officials will introduce the project area, resource conditions, and desired outcomes, and explain the collaborative planning process for developing and implementing the project. Attendees will have an opportunity to provide input, ask Forest Service staff questions, and learn more about the project.

The Tinker Bugs project would propose activities within approximately 7,729 acres of National Forest System lands in areas impacted by insects and hazardous fuels loadings from Lodge Creek west to the Forest Service boundary south of the Middle Fork Clearwater River. The primary purposes of the proposed project are to reduce hazardous fuels and increase resilience to insect and disease within rural Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) lands. The project area is located entirely on National Forest System lands immediately south of Syringa in Idaho County and administered by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. The project area includes tributaries to the Middle Fork Clearwater River.

The proposed project is in a Priority Landscape Treatment Area designated by the Governor of Idaho under Section 602 of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA), as amended by the Agriculture Act of 2014 (Farm Bill). The forest is considering completing the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act using HFRA.

Preliminary project information will be posted on the project webpage: www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54516.

Please direct any questions to Sara Daugherty, Natural Resource Planner, at sddaugherty@fs.fed.us or (208) 926-6404.